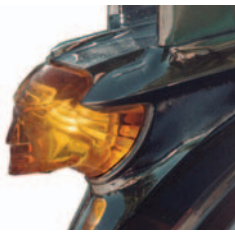




**At least 11 cases of swine flu in California**  
STATE / 11

**GM kills Pontiac brand and cuts 21,000 jobs**  
BUSINESS / 14



**Castilleja's Albanese strikes out 37 in 14-inning win over Sequoia**  
SPORTS / 26



# THE DAILY NEWS

SERVING THE PENINSULA

Atherton | East Palo Alto | Los Altos | Los Altos Hills | Menlo Park | Mountain View | Palo Alto | Portola Valley | Redwood City | San Carlos | Stanford | Woodside

Volume 14, Number 119

TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2009

150

WWW.BAYDAILYNEWS.COM

**SAN CARLOS**

## Giving rats a home where cats don't roam

Dusky-footed woodrats protected by city action

BY MIKE ROSENBERG  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

A 3½-acre San Carlos housing development will be allowed to go forward, said the city council Monday, with this condition: No cats allowed outside the homes.

The San Carlos City Council voted unanimously to certify a long-planned Devonshire Canyon residential development environmental impact report and approve the project's tax agreement with San Mateo County.

They also voted 4-1, with Vice Mayor Randy Royce dissenting, to recommend the Local Agency Formation Commission annex the unincorporated property into the city.

The decision comes after a group of custom home builders submitted plans in 2002 to annex the property they owned into San Carlos for development. The project sparked controversy over whether the five-house development on Winding Way would impact a variety of rare plant and animal species.

The San Francisco dusky-footed woodrat, a state and federal "species of special concern," in particular would be negatively affected by the development, even after other preventative measures were taken, city-hired biologists said.

The area has 60 woodrat nests, which would be devastated by free-ranging cats, biologists said. The only way to prevent the woodrat predation, they said, was either require cats on leashes — which council members deemed infeasible — or prohibit house cats from going outside.

The "cat prohibition" should save the local woodrat population, Planning Manager Deborah Nelson said. Deed restrictions will be placed on the houses preventing the homeowners from letting their cats outside, although it's unclear how it will be enforced.

Council Member Brad Lewis said he lives in an area where feral cats have multiplied out of control, while Royce said he believed cats could "live cohesively" with the woodrats.

But the property owners, dealing with delays that they say cost them at least \$50,000, now know they'll eventually have to sell homes with the indoor cats-only caveat.

"I think it's not practical, but the people who own the homes will have to deal with it,

WOODRATS, page 9

## High (wheeled) hopes



Konstandinos Goumenidis / Daily News

Palo Alto resident Martin Krieg, 55, is leaving Sunday on the seventh Mayors' Ride.

## Martin Krieg toughens up, seeks funds for ride across America on odd bicycle

BY JASON GREEN  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

To steel himself for a 4,000-mile ride across the United States on a bicycle designed 118 years ago, Palo Alto resident Martin Krieg, 55, has denied himself the most basic of comforts. Since November, that's meant sleeping on a thin mattress pad in an unheated garage and forcing himself to

ride 20 miles immediately after waking up each morning.

Krieg says this "deprivation training" will make the desolate stretches of Nevada highway and the steep grades over the Rockies easier to overcome.

"It toughens me up," he said about his regimen. "It makes me hungry as hell."

BICYCLE RIDE, page 6

**PALO ALTO**

## Foam gets the ax

Council votes to ban polystyrene containers

BY WILL OREMUS  
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITER

Take-out food and drinks in Palo Alto will come in either paper or plastic containers after the city council on Monday voted unanimously to ban expanded polystyrene, popularly but incorrectly called Styrofoam.

The ban will take effect next Earth Day — April 22, 2010 — despite calls for an earlier start from some on the council. A restaurant group thanked the city for the grace period, saying it will help small businesses use up existing supplies before making the transition.

As a concession to the trade group, the city offered an additional one-year "hardship" exemption to businesses that can show they would be hurt financially by the switch to other materials.

Palo Alto follows Oakland, San Francisco, Millbrae and several other cities in banning polystyrene foam, which is hard to recycle and often ends up as litter. Volunteers in Palo Alto have photographed bits of the foam in local creeks, where it can harm fish and other wildlife.

The ban will force businesses to shift to packaging made of either recyclable plastic, paper or other compostable materials. According to a city survey, more than two-thirds of Palo Alto restaurants already avoid polystyrene foam.

Amalia Chamorro of the California Restaurant Association said her organization opposes bans of specific materials but that her Palo Alto restaurant members appreciated the city's outreach. Many have already switched away from plastic foam, she said, and the rest will be encouraged to comply with the new rule.



Bay Area News Group

Plastic foam containers such as these will be banned.

CONTAINERS, page 9

## Ask Dr. Nipa: Invisible braces, visible smiles

The Invisalign® treatment is an innovative new solution to straightening crooked teeth. It involves a series of transparent, plastic, and removable aligners that slowly move your teeth until they are straightened. Unlike braces, the clear aligners can be conveniently removed while you eat and brush. Most adults prefer them since they're virtually invisible, easily removable and easy to clean.

The straight talk about crooked teeth is that it may be bad for your appearance, and perhaps even for your health. If your teeth are crowded, crooked or unusually spaced apart, straightening them is recommended. Straightened teeth preserve your teeth and jaw structures longer, make chewing more comfortable and will help you look and feel better. If you

find traditional braces unattractive or painful, Invisalign is ideal

Special Limited Time Offers

Dental Implants (includes surgery plus crown)	: from \$2,750
Invisalign® (invisible braces)	: from \$3,950
Veneers (ceramic shells for the perfect smile)	: from \$850

for you. At Mountain View Center for Cosmetic Dentistry, Dr. Nipa Sheth is rated Top Cosmetic Dentist in Santa Clara County by Best of Bay TV. She is among the top 5% dentists designated a Premier Invisalign Provider. You can visit her website at <http://www.drnipa.com> or call her at (650) 265-1058 to make your appointment.

Paid Advertisement